

## Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

June 25, 2013 • **Town Hall** • 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, 4:30 PM

Attending: Committee Members - Cristina Fernandes, Laurel Dickey, Craig Goff, Sue Morrello, John Root. Visitors - Arnie Alper, Guilford Mooring, Aaron Hayden, Christine Archambault (from South Hadley), Martha Hanner, Katy Van Geel (both of Amherst League of Women Voters)

- Approve May 2013 minutes
- Completed harassment policy paperwork.
- Zero waste discussion: determine next steps

A copy of the ideas generated at the Zero Waste Summit at Amherst College was not available. **Could Susan please (re)send them to all committee members?** Guilford Mooring explains that the Transfer Station realized a \$70,000 shortfall in FY13. Will be able to make up some of this from other places and will take the balance out of reserves. Susan is working on a proposed future budget. Looks like the transfer station will have to close next year unless a radically different solution is determined. Town Manager John Musante feels it is not appropriate to move forward with the Zero Waste Proclamation until the Transfer Station situation is resolved. Aaron suggests that the Select Board might not approve it without concrete suggestions as to what should be done to improve the waste management situation in Amherst. Curbside composting could be one way to decrease waste volume. **Guilford will call private haulers to ask about the possibility of adding organics pickup.** Hamilton and Wenham now have curbside composting pickup – **Sue Morrello will call a contact there, as well (Gretel Clark).** Institutions will be required by July 2014 to remove compostables from solid waste. Guilford cautions that this might take longer than that to get up and running. John wonders if we could do something so we would know better what our refuse really is – how much and what refuse is being hauled out of town. He also suggested that fines could be levied to increase compliance. Guilford suggests that we talk to the local haulers Amherst Waste (Duseau), Amherst Trucking, Alternative Recycling, Triple T Recycling (only one currently collecting compostables). Find out what they already know about the refuse they collect. Transfer Station collects this data. **John and Guilford will arrange for a meeting with the haulers.** Questions for the haulers: What volume is collected – solid

waste, paper, mixed containers? How many customers - residential/commercial? What are the current rates? What would the likely rate be if compostables were added? What would the fees be if the town devised pick-up routes and if the town hired the haulers? Are the haulers capable of handling pay-as-you-throw? Disposal options are by the bag, weigh the refuse, or by the cart. Guilford says that, to a point, there is likely to be less illegal dumping when a town contracts with haulers rather than individuals contracting with haulers. Craig will try to get some info from the state concerning average amounts of waste in MA.

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting - none
- New business & news updates – none
- 6:03 PM Motion to adjourn meeting.

Note: Can approved minutes be sent to Katy and Martha?